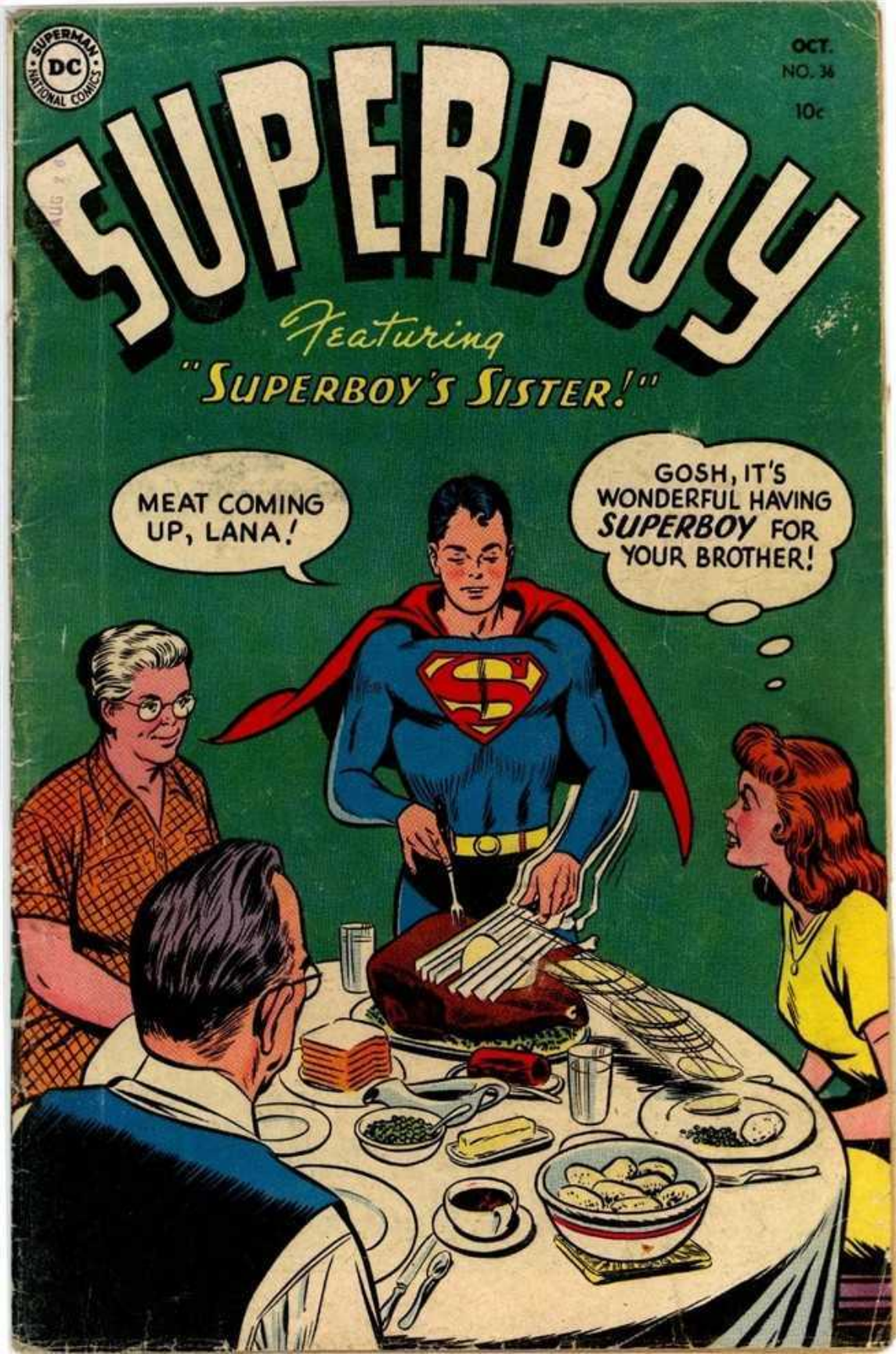
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
OCT.
NO. 36
10c
SUPERBOY
Featuring
"SUPERBOY'S SISTER!"
MEAT COMING UP, LANA!
GOSH, IT'S WONDERFUL HAVING SUPERBOY FOR YOUR BROTHER!

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SUPERBOY SOUVENIR IN YOUR HOME? A MEMENTO OF SOME GREAT ADVENTURE OR DEED PERFORMED BY THE BOY OF STEEL? YOU'D LIKE IT, OF COURSE, BUT NO MORE SO THAN EAGER CUSTOMERS IN SMALLVILLE, FLOCKING TO PURCHASE MEMENTOS OF THEIR FAMED BOY CITIZEN! EVERYBODY IS HAPPY.. EXCEPT SUPERBOY HIMSELF -- WHEN HE LEARNS THERE IS A MYSTERY BEHIND "THE SUPERBOY SOUVENIRS!"
THANKS FOR POURING THE CONCRETE BASE AND BRINGING THE METEOR HERE, SUPERBOY! NOW JUST ONE MORE LITTLE DETAIL... BUILDING A WOODEN SHELTER OVER IT!
HMM! AS A SOUVENIR, THIS METEOR IS MORE TROUBLE THAN IT WAS AS A MENACE! ALL I HAD TO DO THEN WAS TO CATCH IT!
SUPER SOUVENIR METEOR WHICH SUPERBOY CAUGHT BEFORE IT SMASHED INTO A CITY!

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ONE DAY IN SMALLVILLE...
GOSH! THAT HEAVY WET CEMENT, FALLING SIX STORIES DOWN, CAN HURT SOMEBODY! LOOK OUT, BELOW!

BUT THE FAMILIAR FLASHING BLUE FIGURE OF SUPERBOY SEES THE DANGER, AND...
MIGHT BE HARD FOR ME TO CATCH THAT WET CEMENT WITH MY HANDS! THIS MANHOLE WILL DO! I'LL RETURN IT LATER!
OFFICE BUILDING
ER CONSTRUCTION
NOW RENTING
LLEY REALTORS
LE BROKERS
CAUTION MEN WORKING
SEWER REPAIRS IN PROGRESS

GOT IT! I'LL BRING IT BACK UP NOW, AND WARN THAT WORKER TO BE MORE CAREFUL!
PLOP!

BUT, LATER, AS SUPERBOY IS ABOUT TO RETURN THE MANHOLE COVER...
WAIT, SUPERBOY! LET ME HAVE IT! I'LL REPLACE IT WITH A NEW MANHOLE COVER, AND TAKE THIS ONE!
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT IT? IT'S USELESS TO YOU--!

USELESS? FAR FROM IT! I'M ANTON BURK, FORMER ANTIQUE DEALER, AND I'VE JUST OPENED A MUCH BETTER BUSINESS-- THE SUPERBOY SOUVENIR SHOP! COME AND SEE IT!
I WILL! THIS SOUNDS... ER... AMAZING!

AMAZING IS HARDLY THE WORD, AS SOON, ON MAIN STREET...
MEMENTOS OF MY ADVENTURES! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM ALL?
BY FOLLOWING THE POLICE AND CALLS FOR HELP, I PICKED UP THESE THINGS YOU LEFT BEHIND AFTER HELPING OUT! IT TOOK MONTHS BUT WAS WORTH IT! LET'S GO INSIDE!
SUPERBOY SOUVENIR SHOP
IS THERE A SUPERBOY MEMENTO IN YOUR HOME?

I EVEN EXHIBIT AN ARTIST'S SKETCH WITH EACH ITEM, SHOWING HOW IT HAPPENED!
$10.00

HMM! BURK IS SURE AN ENTERPRISING, CLEVER SALESMAN!
SUPERBOY USED HIS GREAT STRENGTH TO TWIST CROOK'S STEEL GUN!

CRIMINAL BULLETS THAT MERELY BOUNCED FROM INVULNERABLE SUPERBOY!
ALL WASTED AMMUNITION AGAINST YOU, SUPERBOY! BUT THEY'RE MY BEST-SELLING ITEMS!
SPECIAL
DELUXE SPECIMEN, FIRED by NOTORIOUS "ROSS" BARTON —
$5.00

PEOPLE SNAP THESE UP, TOO!
BOMB ATTEMPT ON SUPERBOY... WITH THE USUAL RES...

GOSH! YOU DIDN'T MISS A THING, DID YOU?
ONE of OUR FINEST PIECES! SUPERBOY REACHED THROUGH BRICK WALL TO NAB ROBBER WITHIN! $25.00
SUPERBOY'S FOOTPRINTS IN SIDEWALK, WHEN LEAPING DOWN TO SAVE FALLING PERSON
$15.00

NOT IF I COULD HELP IT! SOME CUSTOMER WILL NEED A TRUCK TO HAUL THIS ONE AWAY! BUT SOMEONE WILL BUY IT, DON'T WORRY! THESE ARE THE GREATEST SOUVENIRS ON EARTH!
STEEL GIRDER TIED INTO A KNOT by SUPERBOY for CHARITY
3

I HAD TO HIRE THREE CLERKS TO HANDLE MY BUSINESS! WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, SUPERBOY? IT'S ALL IN HONOR OF YOU AND YOUR GREAT DEEDS!
WELL, I DON'T EXACTLY LIKE SOMEONE MAKING MONEY ON ME!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD, SUPERBOY! DOES THAT SIGN HELP?
YES, IT DOES! A NICE GESTURE, MR. BURK! NOW I CAN FEEL IT'S MORE WORTHWHILE!... WELL, GUESS I'LL BE GOING ALONG!
IN SUPERBOY'S HONOR — HALF THE PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY
SUPERBOY SHOP
SOUVENIR

GUESS THERE'S NOTHING REALLY WRONG, AS LONG AS PEOPLE WANT TO BUY THEM! AND I WOULDN'T BE HUMAN IF I WEREN'T A LITTLE...ER... FLATTERED! HM... ALL THESE CUSTOMERS! IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, EVERYTHING WILL BE SOLD ANYWAY!

ALONE, SUPERBOY RETURNS TO HIS EVERYDAY IDENTITY OF MILD-MANNERED CLARK KENT...
ONLY ONE THING BOTHERS ME--I DON'T RECALL EVER HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH "BOSS" BARTON! DID BURK GET THE WRONG NAME...OR IS MY MEMORY SLIPPING?
SMAL

LATER, MEETING LANA LANG, CLARK IS AGAIN PUZZLED!
LOOK, CLARK! I'M JUST MAD ABOUT THIS DARLING DOLL FROM THAT SOUVENIR SHOP! JUST THINK! SUPERBOY ONCE MADE IT WITH HIS OWN HANDS! SIGHE!
I--I DID? GOSH MY MEMORY'S BLANK ON THAT, TOO!
LANA, LET ME SEE THE SKETCH WITH IT!
I STILL DON'T REMEMBER IT! BUT THEN, IT'S HARD TO RECALL EACH AND EVERY LITTLE THING, OVER THE YEARS!
KIND-HEARTED SUPERBOY WHITTLED DOLL AT SUPERSPEED OUT OF DEAD STUMP, BRINGING HAPPINESS TO POOR GIRL WHO HAD NO DOLL OF HER OWN!
4

THREE DAYS LATER, CLARK PASSES THE SHOP WHEN...
WHAT IS THIS? I THOUGHT HE'D BE CLOSED BY NOW, HAVING SOLD EVERYTHING? WHERE DID HE GET A NEW BATCH LIKE THIS--?
SUPERBOY SOUVENIR SHOP FAMOUS SUPERBOY MEMENTOS
THERE JUST COULDN'T BE THAT MANY MORE SUPERBOY SOUVENIRS LEFT, NOT AFTER THE HUNDREDS HE SOLD! SOMETHING'S WRONG... VERY WRONG!
IS THERE A SUPERBOY MEMENTO IN YOUR HOME
COULD THOSE BE WRENCH MARKS ON THAT BAR? WHY WOULD I NEED A WRENCH TO TWIST IT? GOSH, IS THIS ALL A RACKET, WITH BURK FIRST GETTING A FEW GENUINE ITEMS TO FOOL ME, THEN PASSING OFF PHONIES?
I KNEW I NEVER MET "BOSS" BARTON! AND HOW COULD I REMEMBER THAT DOLL--WHEN I NEVER MADE IT? AS SUPERBOY, I'LL EXPOSE BURK AS A SWINDLER TO THE POLICE!
NO... WAIT! HE MIGHT BEAT THE RAP IN COURT AS BEING CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE! HE COULD CLAIM I COULD HAVE USED A WRENCH, FOR INSTANCE! I NEED POSITIVE PROOF TO EXPOSE HIM!
AS HE SWITCHES AGAIN TO THE BOY OF STEEL, HE HAS ANOTHER REASON...
BESIDES, SOMEBODY MUST BE SUPPLYING HIM WITH THE BOGUS SOUVENIRS! I'LL WATCH HIS SHOP AND CATCH THE REST OF THE GANG AS THEY MAKE A DELIVERY!
NOBODY CAME ALL NIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO BE HERE AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT!
SUPERBOY SOUVENIR SHOP

MEANWHILE, HONEST PEOPLE ARE BEING GYPPED! I CAN'T PERMIT THAT TO GO ON EITHER! I'LL TAKE A COUNT OF THE SUPERBOY SOUVENIRS IN TOWN!

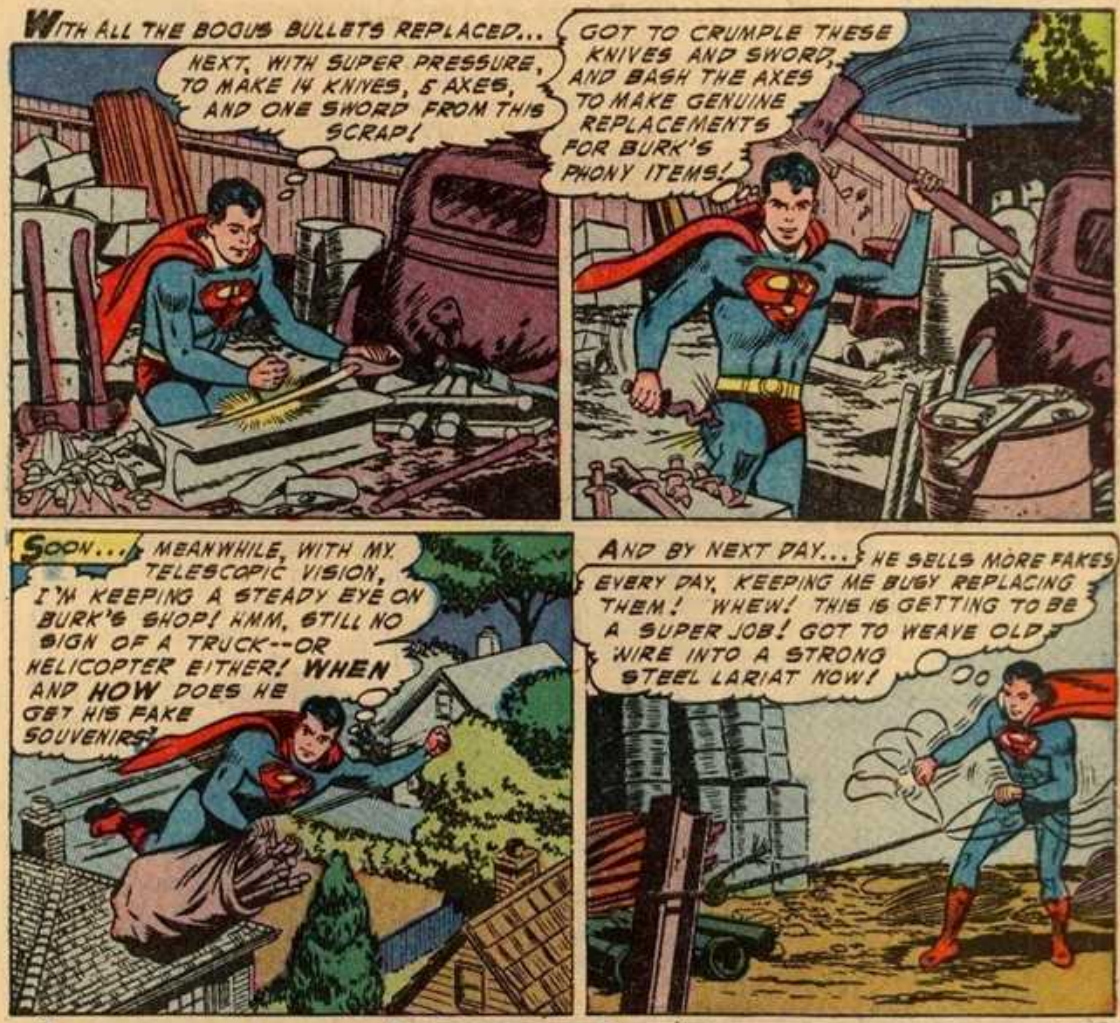
SO, FLASHING FROM HOME TO HOME, USING HIS SUPER SIGHT...
CERTAIN IDENTIFYING MARKS PROVE WHETHER AN ITEM IS GENUINE OR NOT, LIKE INDELIBLE SUPER-PRESSURE FINGERPRINTS I LEFT BEHIND...OR A SMUDGE OF BLUISH DYE ON BULLETS AND KNIVES THAT STRUCK ME! HMM... THAT ONE'S A FAKE, TOO!

LATER...
TO PUT MY PLAN INTO ACTION, FIRST, I NEED DOZENS OF GENUINE BULLETS THAT BOUNCED OFF ME, TO REPLACE THOSE FAKES SOLD BY BURK! MY OLD POLICEMAN FRIEND, CLANCY, WILL HELP ME WHEN HE'S OFF DUTY!
FAKE SOUVENIRS
36- BULLETS
14- KNIVES
5- AXES
1- SWORD

SOON, AFTER A QUICK TRIP WITH CLANCY OUT OF TOWN...
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU SAY SO, SUPERBOY! GOOD TARGET PRACTICE, ANYWAY!
THANKS FOR THE BIG FAVOR, CLANCY, "SHOOTING" ME! LOAD UP YOUR GUN TWICE MORE, PLEASE!

NOW YOU'RE GATHERING THEM! BEATS ME!
I CAN'T REVEAL THE REAL REASON TILL LATER, CLANCY!

HOUSE AFTER HOUSE IS VISITED SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY THAT NIGHT...
NOW, SWITCHING CLANCY'S BULLET FOR BURK'S, THE SIGN IS NOT LYING, AND THIS BUYER ISN'T SWINDLED!
THIS BULLET MET THE IMPENETRABLE BODY OF SUPERBOY


WITH ALL THE BOGUS BULLETS REPLACED...
NEXT, WITH SUPER PRESSURE, TO MAKE 14 KNIVES, 5 AXES, AND ONE SWORD FROM THIS SCRAP!
GOT TO CRUMPLE THESE KNIVES AND SWORD, AND BASH THE AXES TO MAKE GENUINE REPLACEMENTS FOR BURK'S PHONY ITEMS!

SOON...
MEANWHILE, WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION, I'M KEEPING A STEADY EYE ON BURK'S SHOP! HMM, STILL NO SIGN OF A TRUCK--OR HELICOPTER EITHER! WHEN AND HOW DOES HE GET HIS FAKE SOUVENIRS?

AND BY NEXT DAY...
HE SELLS MORE FAKES EVERY DAY, KEEPING ME BUSY REPLACING THEM! WHEW! THIS IS GETTING TO BE A SUPER JOB! GOT TO WEAVE OLD WIRE INTO A STRONG STEEL LARIAT NOW!

AND A SUPER JOB IT IS, INDEED! FOR HE MUST NOT ONLY REPLACE THE ITEMS, BUT REENACT THEIR ORIGINAL USE!
TO MAKE THIS A GENUINE SOUVENIR, I'VE GOT TO USE IT LIKE THE ARTIST SKETCHED THE FAKE LARIAT! I SPOTTED THIS AIRLINER WITH ENGINE TROUBLE ONLY A HUNDRED MILES FROM SMALLVILLE!
ORDINARILY, I'D SIMPLY LIFT THE PLANE FROM DANGER! BUT I HAD TO USE THAT ROUNDABOUT METHOD TO FOLLOW BURK'S STORY OF HIS FAKE LARIAT!

FINALLY REPLACED ALL OF BURK'S PHONIES! NOW I MUST FIND OUT HOW'S HE BEING SUPPLIED. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY LEFT FOR ME... AS CLARK KENT, I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR CLUES IN HIS SHOP!
LATER... I'LL PRETEND TO BE A CUSTOMER, LOOKING AROUND... AH! MY X-RAY VISION INTO THE BACKROOM SHOWS BURK COMING UP WITH A NEW LOAD -- FROM BELOW! THERE MUST BE A CELLAR! I'LL CHECK FURTHER TONIGHT AFTER THE STORE IS CLOSED!
THAT NIGHT...
NOW TO ENTER THE CELLAR!
BURK MUST HAVE BUILT A TUNNEL LEADING TO A SPOT WHERE SUPPLIES COULD BE SECRETLY PICKED UP!
WE'RE RUNNING SHORT OF KNIVES THAT BEND WHEN STUCK AGAINST SUPERBOY! IT'S A VERY POPULAR ITEM! MAKE A DOZEN MORE!
I WAS WRONG! HE HAS A WORK-SHOP WHERE THE SOUVENIRS ACTUALLY ARE MADE!
AND ANOTHER STEEL BAR, WHICH SUPERBOY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BENT INTO A PRETZEL!
YEAH, AND BEFORE THESE YOKELS CATCH ON HOW WE'RE FLOODING THE TOWN, WE'LL CLEAN UP AND SCRAM!
ALL THE MACHINERY AND TOOLS NEEDED TO MAKE HUNDREDS OF SOUVENIRS! ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS CARRY THEM UP FROM THE CELLAR! NO WONDER I COULDN'T TRACE THEIR SOURCE BEFORE!
A KID SNOOPER, EH?

YOU FELLOWS, GIVE ME A HAND! WE'LL TIE HIM UP!
WHUP!
OH-H-H!
GOT TO PRETEND I WAS KNOCKED COLD! IF NOT, THEY WOULD KNOW MY SECRET-- THAT I'M REALLY SUPERBOY!
DON'T HARM THE BRAT! WE'LL JUST KEEP HIM PRISONER HERE TILL TOMORROW NIGHT!
TOMORROW, WE'LL GET RID OF ALL THIS JUNK, AND SKIP TOWN WITH OUR TAKE! THEN LET THIS KID BLAB HOW WE MADE THE FAKES -- AFTER WE'RE GONE!
AND I HAVE TO SIT AND WATCH!

A BAFFLING TRAP FOR THE BOY OF STEEL!
I CAN'T USE MY SUPER STRENGTH TO ESCAPE, IN FRONT OF THEM! AND IF THEY KEEP A GUARD ON ME ALL DAY TOMORROW, I'LL BE UNABLE TO STOP THEM, UNLESS... HMM! THAT BALL GIVES ME AN IDEA!

ONE CHANCE TO ESCAPE, AND MAKE IT SEEM AN "ACCIDENT"! USING MY BREATH AS SUPER-SUCTION, I CAN ROLL THAT BALL OFF THE TABLE AND...
IN AN EXHIBITION SUPERBOY KNOCKED THIS BALL A MILE FOR REAL!

HEY, WHAT'S THAT? OH... JUST THAT TIRE ROLLING WHEN THE BALL HIT IT!
NOW, SUPER VIBRATION FROM MY TOES, SHAKES THE GROUND ENOUGH TO BOUNCE IT NEAR ME AND...

...THIS AXE FLIES TO CUT MY ROPES BY SHEER ACCIDENT! NOW A FAST DASH OUTSIDE, BEFORE THAT THUG RECOVERS FROM HIS SURPRISE!
HEY!
THUD

HE WAS DELAYED IN SQUEEZING THROUGH THE WINDOW! ONCE AROUND THIS CORNER, I CAN CHANGE TO SUPERBOY IN A FLASH!
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU YET, YOU BRAT!
YIPES! WHO PUT UP THIS STONE WALL?
GOING SOMEWHERE, MISTER? CLARK KENT'S GONE, BUT SUPPOSE I FINISH UP FOR HIM? LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR SHOP!
I DON'T NEED A WRENCH TO BEND THESE STEEL BARS INTO A CAGE! AND IT'S MY PERSONAL SOUVENIR TO YOU THREE MEN!
AND NOW TO MAKE IT COME TRUE!
SUPERBOY BENT STEEL TO MAKE THIS CAGE TO HAUL CROOKS TO JAIL!
NICE OF YOU TO DONATE ALL OF THIS MONEY TO CHARITY, BURK, INSTEAD OF HALF, AS YOU PRETENDED!
AND IT CAN GO TO CHARITY, INSTEAD OF BACK TO THE PEOPLE, SINCE I REPLACED THE PHONEY SOUVENIRS WITH GENUINE ONES!
10
NEXT DAY, WHEN CLARK CALLS ON LANA...
I WAS HEARTBROKEN, WHEN I THREW AWAY BURK'S FAKE DOLL! BUT LOOK WHAT SUPERBOY LEFT ME, WITH A SWEET NOTE SAYING-- "A SPECIAL GIFT, MADE BY SUPER WHITTLING, TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!" OH, CLARK, HE'S SUCH A DOLL!
I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED LANA WAS GYPPED, TOO!
The End.

BEBE
HENRY BOLTINOFF

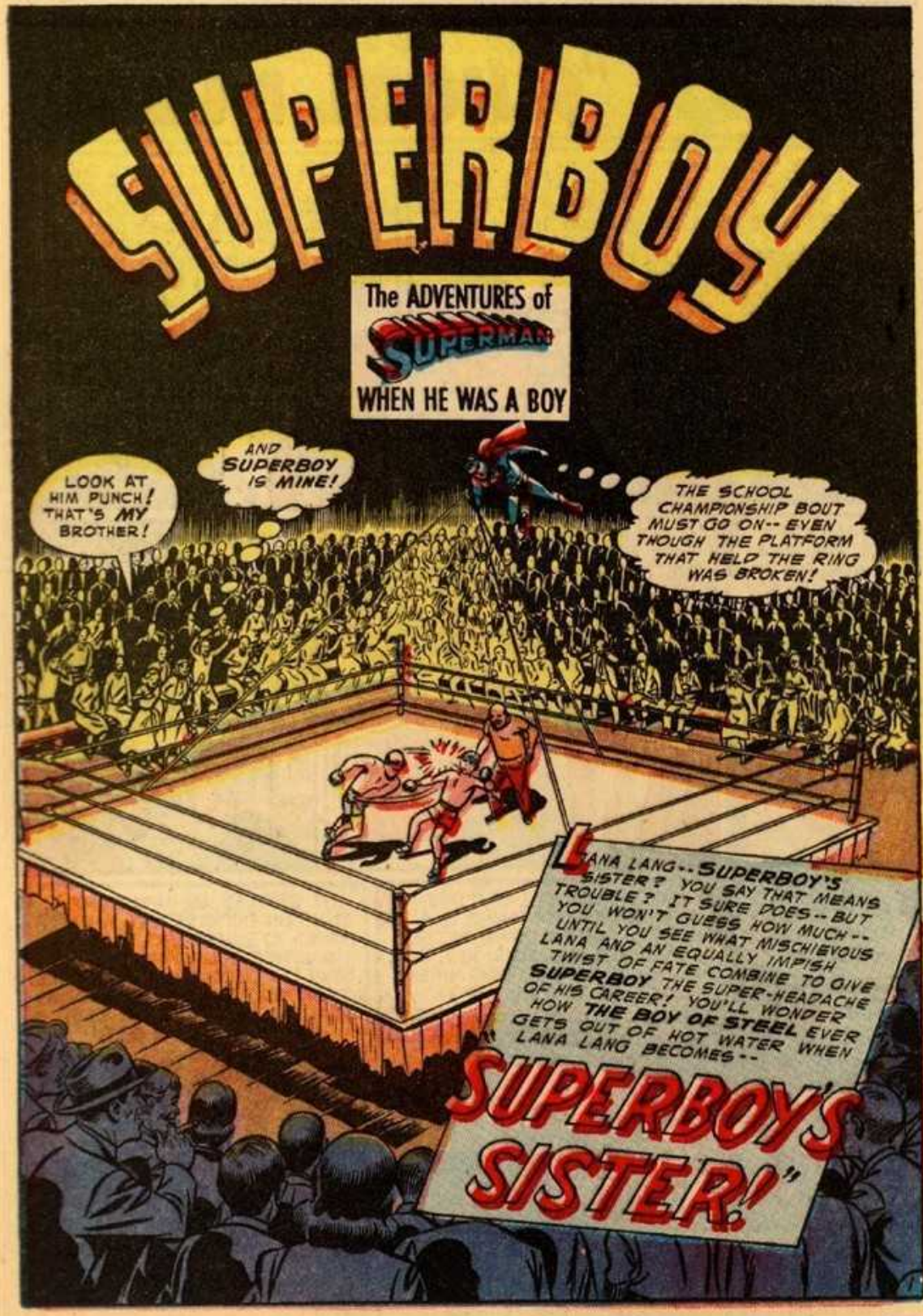
H'LO, BEBE!

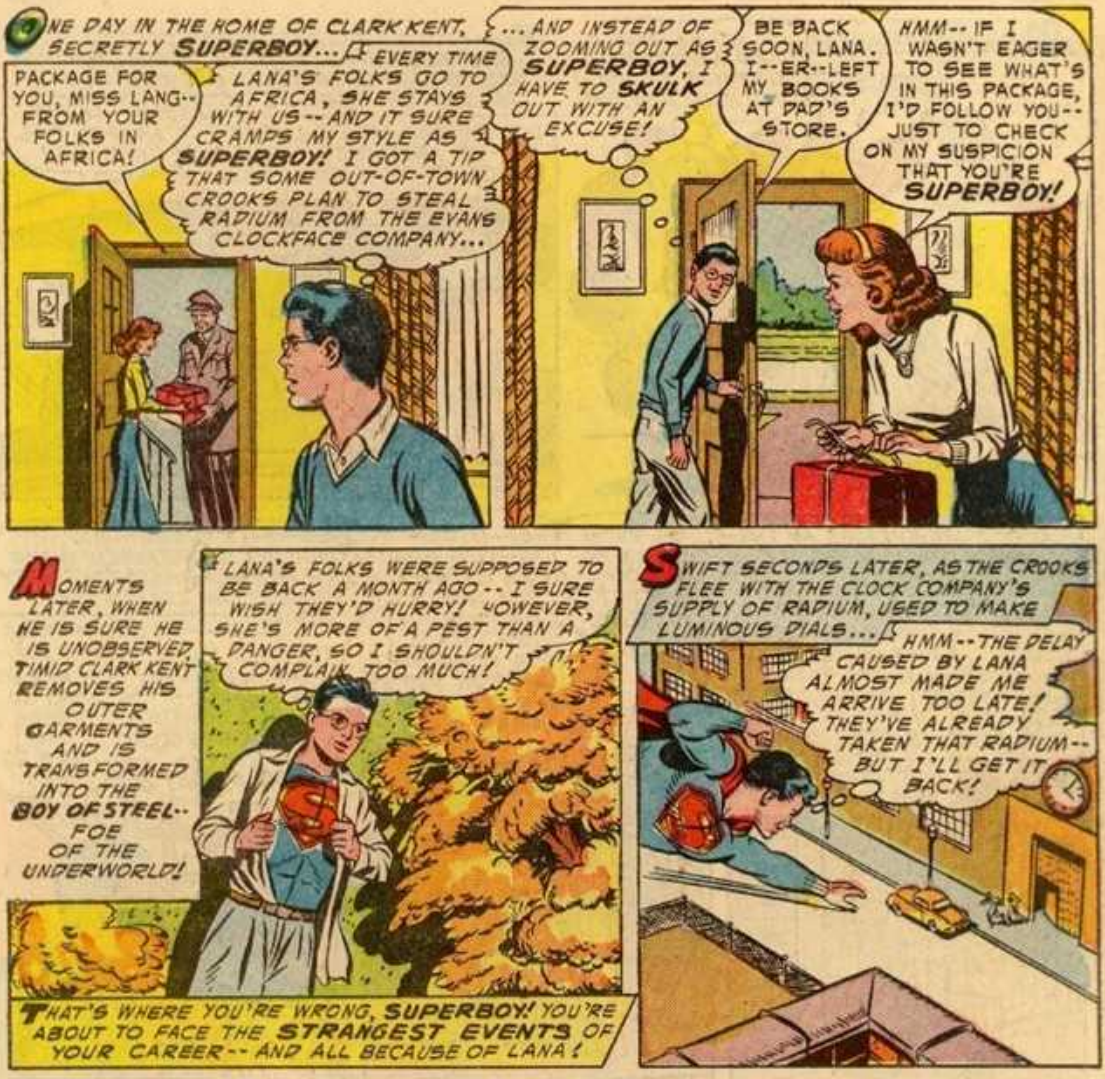
I'M TIRED OF BEING BOSSED AROUND THE HOUSE!

HOW IS IT AT YOUR HOUSE? DO THEY BOSS YOU AROUND, TOO?

WELL, MOMMY DOES TELL ME LOTS OF THINGS TO DO··

BUT I CAN SAY PRETTY MUCH WHAT I PLEASE TO THE GOLDFISH!
THE END


SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
LOOK AT HIM PUNCH! THAT'S MY BROTHER!
AND SUPERBOY IS MINE!
THE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT MUST GO ON-- EVEN THOUGH THE PLATFORM THAT HELD THE RING WAS BROKEN!
LANA LANG-- SUPERBOY'S SISTER? YOU SAY THAT MEANS TROUBLE? IT SURE DOES-- BUT YOU WON'T GUESS HOW MUCH-- UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT MISCHIEVOUS LANA AND AN EQUALLY IMPISH TWIST OF FATE COMBINE TO GIVE SUPERBOY THE SUPER-HEADACHE OF HIS CAREER! YOU'LL WONDER HOW THE BOY OF STEEL EVER GETS OUT OF HOT WATER WHEN LANA LANG BECOMES--
"SUPERBOY'S SISTER!"


ONE DAY IN THE HOME OF CLARK KENT, SECRETLY SUPERBOY...
EVERY TIME LANA'S FOLKS GO TO AFRICA, SHE STAYS WITH US -- AND IT SURE CRAMPS MY STYLE AS SUPERBOY! I GOT A TIP THAT SOME OUT-OF-TOWN CROOKS PLAN TO STEAL RADIUM FROM THE EVANS CLOCKFACE COMPANY...
PACKAGE FOR YOU, MISS LANG -- FROM YOUR FOLKS IN AFRICA!
...AND INSTEAD OF ZOOMING OUT AS SUPERBOY, I HAVE TO SKULK OUT WITH AN EXCUSE!
BE BACK SOON, LANA. I -- ER -- LEFT MY BOOKS AT DAD'S STORE.
HMM -- IF I WASN'T EAGER TO SEE WHAT'S IN THIS PACKAGE, I'D FOLLOW YOU -- JUST TO CHECK ON MY SUSPICION THAT YOU'RE SUPERBOY!

MOMENTS LATER, WHEN HE IS SURE HE IS UNOBSERVED, TIMID CLARK KENT REMOVES HIS OUTER GARMENTS AND IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE BOY OF STEEL -- FOE OF THE UNDERWORLD!
LANA'S FOLKS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK A MONTH AGO -- I SURE WISH THEY'D HURRY! HOWEVER, SHE'S MORE OF A PEST THAN A DANGER, SO I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN TOO MUCH!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, SUPERBOY! YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE THE STRANGEST EVENTS OF YOUR CAREER -- AND ALL BECAUSE OF LANA!
SWIFT SECONDS LATER, AS THE CROOKS FLEE WITH THE CLOCK COMPANY'S SUPPLY OF RADIUM, USED TO MAKE LUMINOUS DIALS...
HMM -- THE DELAY CAUSED BY LANA ALMOST MADE ME ARRIVE TOO LATE! THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN THAT RADIUM -- BUT I'LL GET IT BACK!

HEY -- LOOK -- IT'S SUPERBOY!
LET'S DROP THE RADIUM -- AND LAM! I THOUGHT HE MIGHT SPOT US, SO I BROUGHT ALONG SOME DYNAMITE AND A FUSE!
I'LL HAVE TO SMOTHER THAT EXPLOSION WITH MY BODY -- THE DYNAMITE CAN'T HURT ME IN THE LEAST WHEN IT GOES OFF -- AND THAT'LL MEAN LETTING THEM GET AWAY -- BUT IT'S THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS, SINCE THE EXPLOSION WOULD MAKE THIS AREA RADIOACTIVE!
SPLUTTER

MOMENTS AFTERWARD...
NO CHANCE OF ANYONE'S GETTING RADIUM BURNS NOW!
BAM-PROOM!

YES-- YOU'VE AVERTED THAT DANGER, SUPERBOY-- BUT YOU'VE ALSO LAID YOURSELF OPEN TO AN OMINOUS AND DANGEROUS THREAT!
DID YOU SEE THAT, LUKE? HE--HE ABSORBED THE WHOLE FORCE OF THAT EXPLOSION.
YEAH-- AND WHAT AN IDEA IT'S GIVEN ME!

LATER, THAT EVENING, AS THE CROOKS WALK THROUGH SMALLVILLE...
WHAT ARE WE WALKIN' THROUGH THESE STREETS WITH THAT THING FOR?
LOOK, CHUMP-- THIS IS A GEIGER COUNTER--A GIMMICK THAT STARTS CLICKING WHERE THERE'S RADIOACTIVITY AROUND-- AND SUPERBOY MUST BE RADIOACTIVE AFTER THAT EXPLOSION! WHEN THIS THING GOES TICK...
... WE KNOW WHERE HE LIVES IN HIS SECRET IDENTITY!
HEY--LOOK-- IT--IT'S GOIN' LIKE CRAZY-- THAT MEANS SUPERBOY LIVES THERE! WE'LL COME BACK TOMORROW AND SEE WHAT THE NAME OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE!
TICK TICK TICK
YES--FATE IS CERTAINLY DEALING SUPERBOY SOME BAD BREAKS--AND THAT VERY MOMENT, HE LEARNS THE WORST!
TERRIBLE NEWS, CLARK! MR. AND MRS. LANG-- LANA'S PARENTS-- I--I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THEY-- THEY'RE DEAD!
GOSH--POOR LANA! HOW-- HOW ARE WE GOING TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HER?

THE NEWS IS BROKEN, AND NEXT DAY, AFTER A SLEEPLESS, TEARFUL NIGHT, LANA AND THE KENTS MEET WITH THE LANGS' LAWYER...
... AND ALL MY PROPERTY IN TRUST TO MY DAUGHTER LANA. ALSO, I HOPE MY DEAR FRIENDS, THE KENTS, WILL ACT AS HER GUARDIANS. WILL YOU, MR. KENT?
WHY--WHY-- YES, OF COURSE!
LANA'S LIKE A DAUGHTER TO US ALREADY!
I KNOW NO ONE CAN REPLACE YOUR REAL PARENTS--BUT MA AND PA WILL LOVE YOU--JUST-- JUST AS MUCH AS THEY DO ME-- SIS!
OH, CLARK--YOU--YOU'RE ALL SO NICE! I--I'LL TRY NOT TO MAKE YOU UNHAPPY WITH MY GRIEF!
ELEVATOR

TIME PASSES... TIME IN WHICH LUKE AND HIS PARTNER KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON CLARK...
THE BRAT'S CLEVER -- WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET AN OUNCE OF ADDITIONAL PROOF THAT HE'S REALLY SUPERBOY!
YEAH -- BUT WE WILL -- NOW THAT WE KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS! SINCE SUPERBOY LIVES IN THE KENT HOUSE -- WHO ELSE COULD HE BE BUT THAT KENT BRAT?
...TIME IN WHICH LANA'S GRIEF IS SLOWLY HEALED AND SHE GRADUALLY RETURNS TO HER ELFIN SELF...
I ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE WITH THE KENTS -- TO PROVE THAT CLARK WAS SUPERBOY! OHH -- IF I ONLY CAN PROVE IT -- IF ONLY SUPERBOY WERE MY BROTHER! I CAN JUST SEE IT NOW! WE'D BE SITTING DOWN TO DINNER...
"... AND BROTHER SUPERBOY WOULD BE CARVING..."
LOOK OUT, BROTHER -- YOUR FINGER'S NEAR THE BLADE! YOU'LL SNAP THE BLADE IF YOU TOUCH IT AT THAT SPEED!
YES -- LANA FITS INTO THE KENT HOUSEHOLD -- AND SOMETIMES, EVEN TOO WELL!
YOU PROMISED DAD TO HELP HIM TAKE THE FURNITURE FROM THE YARD, CLARK -- DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD DO IT NOW?
I WANTED TO DO IT ALL MYSELF -- SO DAD COULD HAVE A WELL-EARNED REST -- BUT HE'LL HAVE TO HELP TO PREVENT LANA FROM GUESSING THAT I HAVE SUPER-POWERS!
CLARK CASTS AN AGONIZED GLANCE AT HIS MOM -- AND WITH QUICK UNDERSTANDING, SHE TURNS TO LANA, AND...
OH, LANA -- I JUST REMEMBERED -- I NEED SOME MILK AND EGGS. WOULD YOU...
SURE, MA -- ANYTHING AT ALL. I -- I'D BE GLAD TO HELP!
NO SOONER IS LANA OUT OF SIGHT THAN CLARK RUSHES TO THE ATTIC, WHERE...
NO ONE WATCHING NOW -- NOT EVEN THOSE TWO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS WHO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND TOWN, SO I'LL JUST TOSS THIS STUFF OUT OF THE WINDOW, RACE DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN, AND...
...GET HERE JUST IN TIME TO CATCH IT ALL AND STACK IT NEATLY!
4

HAVING A SISTER PRODUCES OTHER RESULTS--AND THIS ONE, APPARENTLY HUMOROUS, WILL HAVE SOME STARTLING EFFECTS ON SUPERBOY'S CAREER!
CLARK! LOOK OUT! OH--YOU CLUMSY OAF! YOU'VE SAT ON MY PERFUME ATOMIZER! I HOPE IT DOESN'T RUIN THE CHAIR!
WHEW! I--I SMELL LIKE THE SMALLVILLE BOTANICAL GARDENS! I'D BETTER--WHAT'S THAT?
SIRENS! I--ER--HAVE TO GO! WANT TO GET THE--ER--ON-THE-SPOT NEWS, YOU KNOW! TRYOUTS FOR THE SCHOOL PAPER!
WHEEEEE!
MOMENTS LATER, THE BOY OF STEEL IS OFF LIKE A SHAFT OF LIGHTNING, AND...
THOSE SIRENS--YOU FELLOWS KNOW WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY--ER--NOT EXACTLY--BUT THEY WERE GOING THAT WAY--OVER THERE!
BILLI
THANKS!
THAT--UM--SCENT--DID YOU GET IT?
BILLIARDS
HOW COULD I MISS IT? SUPERBOY--WEARING PERFUME--IT JUST DON'T MAKE SENSE!
SURE IT DOES! DON'T YOU GET IT? NO WONDER WE COULDN'T PROVE THAT KENT KID WAS SUPERBOY! HE ISN'T! THE GIRL IS SUPERBOY! OH, BOY--WHAT AN ANGLE! WHAT A CLEVER DISGUISE!
HUH? SUPERBOY A--A DAME? SA-AY--I BET YOU'RE RIGHT! WE AIN'T NEVER SEEN HIM CLOSE UP!
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE STRANGE DEVELOPMENTS...
CATTLE STAMPEDING ON SCOFIELD'S FARM. I'LL HAVE TO STOP THEM WITHOUT HURTING THEM--HMM--MUST THINK FAST--BEFORE THEY REACH THAT PLAY YARD. I'VE HEARD THERE ARE ARTESIAN WELLS ON THIS LAND--MM--THAT'S IT!
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IN MOMENTS, THE BOY OF STEEL PLUMMETS DEEP INTO THE EARTH, UP AGAIN -- AND DOWN AGAIN...

AND THEN...

THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED! BY THE TIME THOSE CATTLE REACH HERE, THE WATER WILL FLOOD THE EARTH AND CHANGE IT TO THICK MUD! THAT'LL SLOW THE CATTLE DOWN UNTIL THEY GET OVER WHATEVER STARTLED THEM!

AS SUPERBOY FLIES HOMEWARD...

THAT PERFUME -- SMELL IT?

YEAH -- IT'S THE SAME AS SUPERBOY WORE -- SO IT PROVES SUPERBOY IS THE LANG GIRL -- JUST LIKE I SAID! WHAT A BREAK IT WAS -- FINDING OUT WHERE SUPERBOY LIVED WITH THAT GEIGER COUNTER!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE TWO GENTRY OF THE UNDERWORLD LET THEIR EXCITEMENT CARRY THEM AWAY AND, AS LANA ROUNDS THE CORNER...

IT'LL BE A SNAP TO PROVE THAT SHE'S SUPERBOY! BIG JOE OFFERED A MILLION FOR THAT INFO -- AND NOW WE CAN COLLECT!

THE LANG DAME PROBABLY PUTS SOME KIND OF BOY'S MASK AND WIG ON WHEN SHE SWITCHES TO SUPERBOY! THAT'S HOW SHE'S BEEN FOOLING EVERYBODY FOR YEARS!

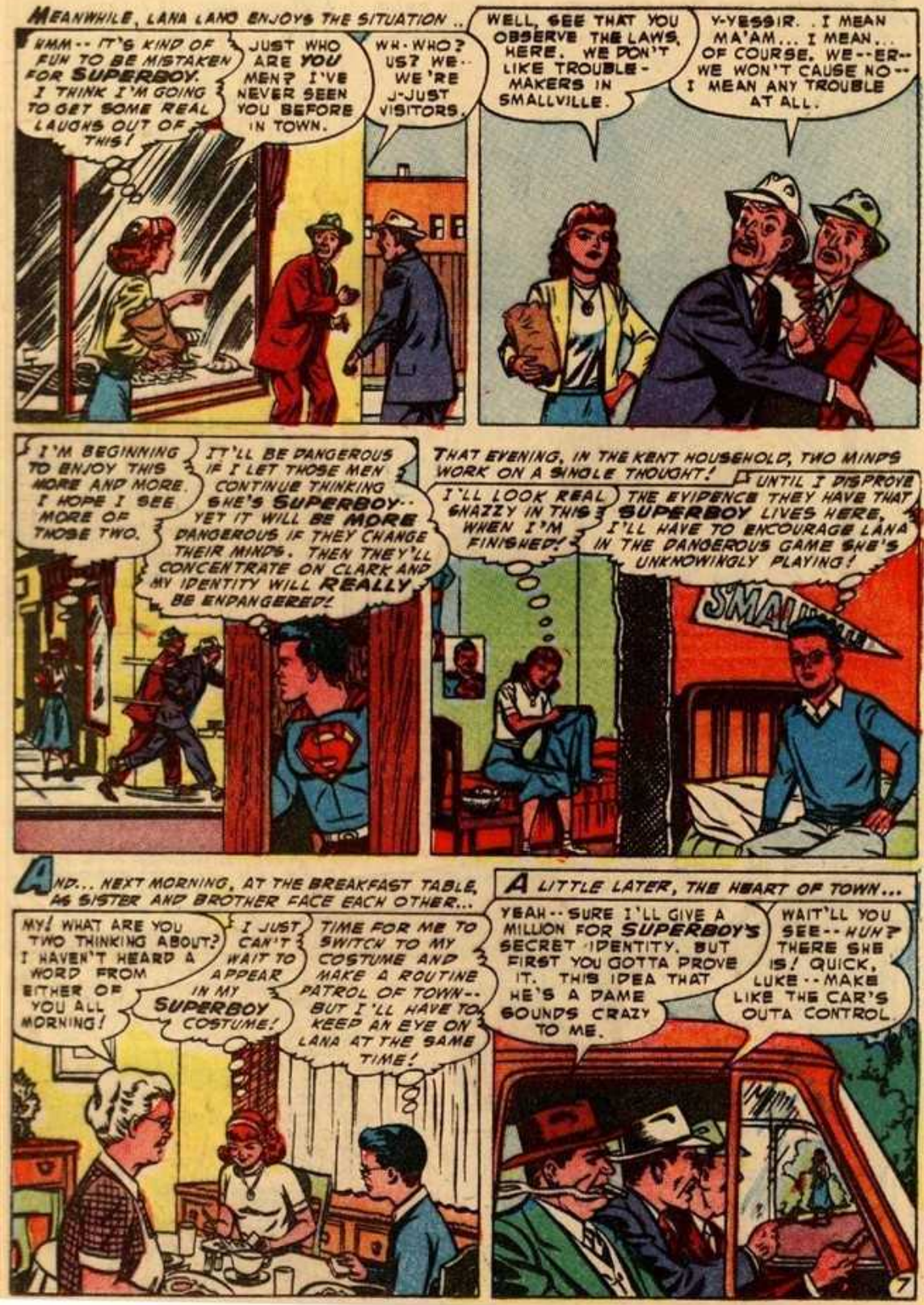
MEANWHILE, UNOBSERVED OVERHEAD BUT EMPLOYING HIS REMARKABLE SUPER-HEARING, IS THE BOY OF STEEL HIMSELF!

FOR MAYOR

THOSE MEN -- THEY -- THEY THINK LANA'S SUPERBOY -- THINK THEY'VE PROVED WHAT HOUSE I LIVE IN! THAT PERFUME MUST HAVE MADE THEM THINK SUPERBOY WAS A GIRL!

THOSE TWO MEN -- THEY -- THEY THINK I'M SUPERBOY!

HMM... THERE WASN'T ENOUGH RADIUM IN THAT EXPLOSION TO MAKE ME RADIOACTIVE -- SO WHY DID THEIR GEIGER COUNTER REACT NEAR OUR HOUSE? HMM -- I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE THAT OUT -- AND FIND A WAY OF DISPROVING THEIR CLAIM! I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT PEOPLE MAKING A CONNECTION BETWEEN SUPERBOY AND THE KENT HOME!


MEANWHILE, LANA LANG ENJOYS THE SITUATION ..
HMM-- IT'S KIND OF FUN TO BE MISTAKEN FOR SUPERBOY. I THINK I'M GOING TO GET SOME REAL LAUGHS OUT OF THIS!
JUST WHO ARE YOU MEN? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN TOWN.
WH-WHO? US? WE-- WE'RE J-JUST VISITORS.
WELL, SEE THAT YOU OBSERVE THE LAWS, HERE. WE DON'T LIKE TROUBLE-MAKERS IN SMALLVILLE.
Y-YESSIR. . I MEAN MA'AM... I MEAN... OF COURSE. WE--ER-- WE WON'T CAUSE NO-- I MEAN ANY TROUBLE AT ALL.
I'M BEGINNING TO ENJOY THIS MORE AND MORE. I HOPE I SEE MORE OF THOSE TWO.
IT'LL BE DANGEROUS IF I LET THOSE MEN CONTINUE THINKING SHE'S SUPERBOY-- YET IT WILL BE MORE DANGEROUS IF THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS. THEN THEY'LL CONCENTRATE ON CLARK AND MY IDENTITY WILL REALLY BE ENDANGERED!
THAT EVENING, IN THE KENT HOUSEHOLD, TWO MINDS WORK ON A SINGLE THOUGHT!
I'LL LOOK REAL SNAZZY IN THIS WHEN I'M FINISHED!
UNTIL I DISPROVE THE EVIDENCE THEY HAVE THAT SUPERBOY LIVES HERE, I'LL HAVE TO ENCOURAGE LANA IN THE DANGEROUS GAME SHE'S UNKNOWINGLY PLAYING!
AND... NEXT MORNING, AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE, AS SISTER AND BROTHER FACE EACH OTHER...
MY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO THINKING ABOUT? I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD FROM EITHER OF YOU ALL MORNING!
I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO APPEAR IN MY SUPERBOY COSTUME!
TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH TO MY COSTUME AND MAKE A ROUTINE PATROL OF TOWN-- BUT I'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON LANA AT THE SAME TIME!
A LITTLE LATER, THE HEART OF TOWN...
YEAH-- SURE I'LL GIVE A MILLION FOR SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY. BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA PROVE IT. THIS IDEA THAT HE'S A DAME SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME.
WAIT'LL YOU SEE-- HUH? THERE SHE IS! QUICK, LUKE-- MAKE LIKE THE CAR'S OUTA CONTROL.

HELP! HELP! WE--WE'RE OUTA CONTROL! BRAKES BUSTED!
WHAT LUCK! THEY CAN'T SEE, BUT SUPERBOY'S WATCHING! HE WON'T LET ME COME TO ANY HARM! I CAN LET HIM DO THE WORK, AND TAKE THE CREDIT MYSELF! I'LL DASH BEHIND THAT WALL, CHANGE INTO MY "COSTUME"...
SECONDS LATER...
...AND RUSH TO THE RESCUE!
JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- LANA'S MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR MISTAKE! LUCKY I FOLLOWED HER. I'LL HAVE TO SAVE HER AND MAKE IT SEEM THAT SHE SAVED THE CAR!
NOW TO MAKE LIKE A HUMAN DRILL AND BURROW UNDERGROUND...
KRASHH
...TILL I COME UP DIRECTLY BENEATH THE CAR! THIS SHOULD STOP IT! I'LL REPAIR THE STREET NOW AND RETURN TO HIDING THE WAY I GOT HERE!
NOTHING TO IT, FELLOWS-- BUT BETTER HAVE YOUR BRAKES CHECKED. SOMETIMES I'M TOO ¿YAWN¿ BUSY TO ATTEND TO DETAILS LIKE THIS. CATCHING CROOKS, YOU KNOW!
YEH-- WE ¿GULP¿ KNOW.
WELL, ARE YOU CONVINCED NOW, JOE?
I SAW HER RUN BEHIND THAT SHRUB-- AND THEN A SECOND LATER SUPERBOY CAME OUT AND STOPPED THE CAR. IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS HER-- BUT MAYBE SUPERBOY IS SOMEONE ELSE AND WAS BEHIND THAT BUSH, BY-- UH-- COINCIDENCE!
8

UNAWARE THAT THE BOY OF STEEL IS USING HIS REMARKABLE SUPER-HEARING TO TUNE IN ON THEIR CONVERSATION, BIG JOE MAKES MORE PLANS TO PROVE WHETHER LANA IS REALLY SUPERBOY!

LOOK--I GOT IT! THIS'LL PROVE IT! YOU FELLOWS GET HER TO WALK BELOW THAT UNDERPASS AND I'LL SHOVE THAT BIG ROCK ON HER HEAD. IF IT BOUNCES OFF, WE'LL BE SURE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

HMM... HOW CAN I LET THAT ROCK HIT HER ON THE HEAD--WITHOUT HURTING HER? I'LL HAVE TO THINK--FAST!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

NOW--WHERE DID YOU SAY THOSE SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS WERE?

THEY--UH--AIN'T HERE NO MORE!

UGH--THIS THING IS HEAVY. GOTTA PUSH IT THROUGH--RIGHT ON HER!

ONE FINAL SPURT OF ENERGY AND JOE SHOVES THE ROCK OVER THE CLIFF--UNAWARE THAT SUPERBOY HAS ALREADY BURROWED HIS WAY INTO THE ROCK...

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP CLOSE WATCH WITH MY X-RAY VISION--AND JUST BEFORE THE ROCK IS ABOUT TO HIT LANA...

...I'LL CRACK IT TO TINY FRAGMENTS, MAKING IT SEEM THAT IMPACT WITH HER HEAD SMASHED IT. THEN I'LL BORE MY WAY INTO THE SAND, HIDDEN BY THE CLOUD OF FLYING PARTICLES, SO THEY WON'T CATCH EVEN A GLIMPSE OF ME!

SECONDS LATER...

THAT ROCK--WEIGHED HUNDREDS OF POUNDS--JUST SMASHED TO DUST WHEN IT HIT HER STEEL-HARD HEAD! WOW! THE MILLION I GIVE THEM IS PEANUTS TO WHAT I'LL COLLECT WITH THIS SECRET!

THAT AFTERNOON, AS CLARK RETURNS HOME...

I'VE HAD WONDERFUL NEWS, CLARK! MOTHER AND DAD ARE ALIVE! THEY'D SENT A LETTER TO THEIR BASE SAYING THEY WERE GOING OFF INTO THE HILLS TO LOOK FOR URANIUM AND THE LETTER NEVER REACHED THE BASE! THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ASSUMED DEAD WHEN NO ONE COULD FIND THEM!

GOSH--THAT IS WONDERFUL, LANA!

IT'S TOO BAD I DIDN'T KNOW THE DETAILS -- BECAUSE THEY SENT ME THIS SPECIMEN TO HAVE ANALYZED AFTER THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED!
URANIUM -- IN THIS HOUSE! NO WONDER THE CROOKS' GEIGER COUNTER SHOWED RADIO-ACTIVITY HERE!
HMM -- NOW THAT I CAN PROVE IT WAS PURE ACCIDENT THAT THEIR GEIGER COUNTER WORKED NEAR THE KENT HOUSE, I CAN TEACH LANA ALIAS SUPERBOY A LITTLE LESSON!
LATER, AS LANA GOES FOR A WALK...
OKAY, BRAT! WE KNOW YOU'RE SUPERBOY -- SO OPEN THAT BANK DOOR FOR US! IF YOU DON'T, I'LL HAVE MY GANG KNOCK OFF CLARK KENT, EVEN IF YOU HAVE US ARRESTED!
THE BANK -- D-DOOR. I -- I'LL -- ER TRY!
SMALLVILLE BANK
OH, WHY DID I EVER GET INTO THIS MESS? WHAT-WHAT'LL I DO NOW?
I -UGHÉ CAN'T! I... ER... FEEL WEAK. MUST BE -- ER -- KRYPTONITE INSIDE!
QUIT STALLING AND RIP IT OFF!
SUDDENLY...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'M ONLY TOO GLAD TO OBLIGE! I CAN REPAIR THIS AFTER YOU'RE IN JAIL!
RRRRIP
THEN YOU MUST BE THE KENT KID AFTER ALL! WE KNOW SUPERBOY LIVES IN THAT HOUSE -- AND IF HE'S NOT LANA, HE'S CLARK KENT!
THINK SO? YOUR GEIGER COUNTER SHOWED RADIOACTIVITY ONLY BECAUSE LANA HAD SOME URANIUM IN THE KENT HOUSE!
GOSH -- I HOPE THEY'D HAD SOME REAL PROOF THAT SUPERBOY WAS CLARK -- BUT I CAN'T COMPLAIN -- THINGS TURNED OUT SO WELL!
THAT EVENING, AT A FAMILY REUNION...
SO CLARK WAS A GOOD BROTHER TO YOU?
YES -- BUT I'D RATHER HAVE YOU AND DAD BACK THAN EVEN SUPERBOY FOR A BROTHER!
SHE WASN'T A BAD SISTER, BUT I'LL BE A LOT HAPPIER WITHOUT ONE!
10

VARSITY VIC
IT WAS SWEET OF YOU TO INVITE ME, VIC. I'VE NEVER SEEN A BASEBALL GAME!
HOT DOGS
PLAY BALL!
OH, WHAT'S THE MAN RUNNING FOR?
BECAUSE HE HIT THE BALL!
I KNOW. BUT IS HE REQUIRED TO CHASE IT, TOO?
END.

"S.O.S.—CREW DITCHING"

Training and Discipline Helped These Men To Save Themselves from A Watery Grave

IN the early days of January 1953, a Navy patrol plane flying on the Formosa Straits patrol became the victim of anti-aircraft fire from Communist Chinese guns. Minutes later the pilot ditched his burning plane in the rough South China Sea. This is the story of that incident, and what followed, a vivid I-was-there account by Lt. Clement R. Prouhet, USN.

Throughout the account runs a double theme for the reader. First of all, quick and proper action under emergency conditions, the result of Navy training and discipline, greatly reduces the extent and number of casualties. Secondly, the account illustrates the team work of the armed services and the heroism of the serviceman in going to the rescue of his fellow men at sea.

Sunday, January 18, 1953 started as a normal patrol day for Crew 7 of Navy Patrol Squadron 22. We were flying our *Neptune* plane at about 1,000 feet altitude on a rouine flight in the South China Sea. About one o'clock in the afternoon we were off the China coast opposite the city of Swatow headed in a northerly direction toward the Formosa Straits.

The crewmen were at their stations and all hands were starting to think seriously about food in the form of the usual cold box lunches. I was checking the power settings of the engines to make certain we weren't burning too much gas.

Suddenly one of the crew reported seeing flashes of gunfire from a small island off our port beam. Seconds later the plane bucked and a burst of flame shot through the flight compartment behind the cockpit. I immediately wrapped the plane into a turn and, jamming on power, climbed the airplane into some low-hanging clouds.

My plane captain, Dan Ballenger, who sits just behind the pilots, reported that the radar operator was hit. By this time we were in protection of the clouds, flying on instruments. I asked all stations to report battle damage. The top crown turret reported two gaping holes in the vertical stabilizer. Checking the controls, I noticed no effect on the maneuverability of the plane. Further reports revealed the radar out of commission, the fuel gauges flipping rapidly from zero to the normal reading and smoke coming from the starboard engine. All these reports over the plane's intercommunication system were made in a matter of moments while we were flying on instruments.

We drafted a message to our home base, and after it was sent out I headed aft to

check casualties among our 13-man crew. I found that the radar technician had been knocked out of his seat by the explosion.

Over the intercom now came the report that the wing was in danger of dropping off due to the intensity of the flames. We were still on instruments, flying in the "soup" at about 2500 feet with one engine out and the other smoking.

I ordered the radioman, to send "SOS—DITCHING" and our position report.

So far, about 15 minutes had elapsed since that first jolt of the AA shell. Each crew member has an assigned station for ditching; each man provides a specific piece of equipment and has a designated escape route after the plane stops in the water. There was no hesitation—every man knew from repeated drills what to do and was ready and eager to get out of that burning plane.

Flaps down, power on our good engine, nose high, I established a slow rate of descent heading nearly into the wind. We touched down on the rough water and decelerated abruptly to a stop.

I scrambled out through the pilot's escape hatch as water was filling the cockpit. As we unfolded the eight-foot raft our hearts took a nose dive when we saw charred and burned areas in one end. We were relieved to find that two of the three compartments in the rafts were filling when we pulled the CO2 inflation bottle.

I counted 11 noses; we were missing two men. It was almost impossible for them to swim up wind to the rest of us against 15-foot swells. We searched as best we could, but in vain.

The next hour passed rather quickly while we took turns climbing in the half submerged raft and paddling toward the islands to the west. As about every fifth wave broke over us, it was impossible to bail out the raft and those taking turns resting were almost as wet as those in the water.

Checking back over those last frantic minutes in the plane, we believed the "SOS—DITCHING" message had gone out so we were expecting help eventually. Morale was good; everyone was cold.

Another clammy hour passed, but now we were buoyed by hope as well as stiff Mae Wests. Far away we heard a new sound of engines and finally spotted a PBM seaplane approaching our position. Even though we didn't believe the plane could land in the rough seas, our spirits soared once again.

To our amazement the plane circled once and then executed a beautiful open-sea landing. We felt that we had it made; our damp spirits started drying out.

Despite the heavy seas the PBM landed alongside, reversed propellers to stop, and taxied over to pick us up in a neat exhibition of airmanship and seamanship. Their after station crew threw us a line and started pulling our craft toward the flying boat. Unexpectedly the line parted.

Now as we were drifting apart, the pilot re-started his engines and began another approach for our bobbing raft. On this pass the line missed the raft by 20 feet. These approaches were extremely difficult because of the churning seas, but on the third approach the plane made contact and drew the raft alongside. We clambered and fell aboard the plane, exhausted and suffering from five hours of exposure in the cold waters.

—Lt. Bob Prouhet, USN

Reprinted from ALL HANDS,
The Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin.

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
WHAT IS THE GREATEST AND BEST-KEPT SECRET ON EARTH? YOU ALL KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT-- SUPERBOY'S DOUBLE IDENTITY! IT IS A SECRET KNOWN ONLY TO TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD BESIDES SUPERBOY HIMSELF-- HIS FOSTER PARENTS, MR. & MRS. KENT! BUT HOLD ON... DOES SOME THIRD PERSON KNOW THIS VITAL SECRET? SO IT SEEMS AS CLARK KENT IS LED THROUGH A MAZE OF MYSTERY THAT LEAVES HIM GASPING WHEN HE MEETS...
The MAN who KNEW SUPERBOY'S IDENTITY!
EMPTY THAT POND, SUPERBOY, AND NO BACK TALK! OBEY "THE MASK" OR I WILL EXPOSE YOU AS CLARK KENT!
Y-YES, S-S'R!

AT DINNER PARTIES GIVEN BY HIS FOSTER PARENTS, YOUNG CLARK KENT'S EARS OFTEN BURN...
AS MAYOR OF SMALLVILLE, I'M PROUD TO HAVE SUPERBOY LIVING IN OUR TOWN!
G-GOSH... HOPE NOBODY NOTICES I'M BLUSHING!
BUT LATER, THE CONVERSATION TAKES A STILL MORE UNCOMFORTABLE TURN...
BUT JUST WHO IS SUPERBOY? HIS OTHER IDENTITY?... DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY IDEA? HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. KENT?
ER... WHY ASK ME, PROFESSOR? WHO CAN REALLY SAY?
WHEW! THAT PUT DAD ON THE SPOT, SINCE HE KNOWS I'M SUPERBOY! THAT WAS QUICK THINKING... GUESS I'LL NEVER HAVE TO FEAR EITHER DAD OR MOM REVEALING MY SECRET!
INEVITABLY, LANA LANG AIRS HER OWN PET THEORY...
I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT CLARK HIMSELF IS SUPERBOY!
NONSENSE, MY DEAR! HA, HA... EXCUSE ME FOR LAUGHING, CLARK, BUT THE MERE THOUGHT OF YOU, SO MEEK AND TIMID... THE VERY OPPOSITE OF DYNAMIC SUPERBOY... HA, HA, HA!
AT BEDTIME, WITH THE PARTY OVER...
I'M SAFE! SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY HAS BEEN THE BIG MYSTERY OF SMALLVILLE SINCE I BEGAN MY CAREER, AND-- HMM... IS THAT A NOTE ON MY PILLOW?
Clark KEnt, I need Your HELP as SuPerboy. Meet me at The Old wiThered OAK in one Hour! The MASK
G-GOOD HEAVENS... SOMEBODY KNOWS THE TRUTH AFTER ALL! B-BUT... HOW??
2

DURING THE EVENING, DID ONE OF THE GUESTS STUMBLE ON SOME DEAD GIVEAWAY IN THE HOUSE? LANA?... THE MAYOR?... THE MUSEUM CURATOR?... THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL?... WHICH ONE? I'LL SOON FIND OUT!
IN HIS FAMED COLORFUL COSTUME, THE BOY OF STEEL STREAKS TO HIS DESTINATION, AN HOUR LATER...
IT'LL BE EASY FOR ME TO SEE THROUGH ANY DISGUISE THIS MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF "THE MASK" MAY BE WEARING!
BUT ANOTHER SHOCK AWAITS YOU, SUPERBOY...
OH, NO! MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T MAKE OUT THE FACE BEHIND THAT MASK!
COME, SUPERBOY! NATURALLY, I'D BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO WEAR A LEADEN MASK AND A LEAD-IMPREGNATED ROBE, IMPERVIOUS TO YOUR X-RAY VISION! YOU'RE NO MYSTERY TO ME -- BUT I AM TO YOU! HA! HA!
YES, FOR ONCE THE TABLES ARE REVERSED.
WHO CAN HE BE? THAT MASK EVEN MUFFLES AND DISGUISES HIS VOICE! NO CLUES AT ALL...
BUT HOW DID YOU SOLVE MY SECRET?
THAT'S MY SECRET! NOW LISTEN... IF YOU WANT ME TO KEEP MUM, YOU MUST PERFORM CERTAIN TASKS FOR ME!
HOLD ON! I WON'T DO ANYTHING CRIMINAL OR DESTRUCTIVE, NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES IF I REFUSE!
RELAX, SUPERBOY... I SOLEMNLY ASSURE YOU THAT NOTHING I ASK IS HARMFUL TO ANYONE! THIS IS PURELY A PERSONAL PLAN, BREAKING NO LAW! FIRST, YOU WILL BRING BACK TO ME A WELSH COAL MINER, NAMED ERIC STANTON, FROM THE STONEHENGE MINE!
3

HE WAS NOTIFIED OF YOUR COMING AND WILL RETURN WILLINGLY! YOU HAVE MY PROMISE, ALSO, THAT I'LL TELL NO ONE YOU ARE CLARK KENT--IF YOU OBEY MY ORDERS!
FAIR ENOUGH, I GUESS! I'M ON MY WAY!

TO PROTECT MY SECRET, I'LL CARRY OUT HIS ORDERS, AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT HARMFUL! NIGHT IN AMERICA IS MORNING IN WALES, ENGLAND--SO I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY!

WITHIN MINUTES, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, SUPERBOY FINDS HIS MAN...
ERIC STANTON? YOUR FRIEND IN AMERICA SENT ME! ER... WHAT'S HIS NAME AGAIN?
JUST "THE MASK," SUPERBOY! HIS CABLEGRAM WARNED THAT YOU MIGHT TRY TO TRICK ME INTO GIVING HIS REAL NAME! SORRY!

HMM... CLEVER OF "THE MASK"; WARNING NONE OF HIS CONTACTS TO GIVE HIM AWAY!
WELL... I HAVE MY VISA, BUT OUR MINE GROUP IS SHORT OF ITS COAL QUOTA, AND I--I HATE TO DESERT THEM NOW!
READY TO LEAVE, SIR?

SO IT'S UP TO SUPERBOY TO LEND A HELPING HAND DOWN IN THE MINE...
THESE OLD SHAFT TIMBERS, SPIKED TOGETHER, WILL SERVE FOR A JUMBO-SIZED BATTERING RAM!

ONE MIGHTY SUPER-BLOW DOES THE DAY'S WORK OF 100 HANDPICKS!
NEED ANY MORE LOOSE COAL?
NO! THAT'S OUR WHOLE DAY'S QUOTA RIGHT THERE!
WHRAM

TSK, TSK... SUCH A MESS I MADE, THOUGH! MUST CLEAN IT UP AND GET IT ALL ABOVE GROUND! GANGWAY AHEAD!
ONLY MOMENTS LATER...
NOW THAT OUR QUOTA'S BEEN MET, I'M FREE TO VISIT AMERICA WITHOUT SHIRKING MY JOB!
ONE JOB DONE FOR "THE MASK"! I'LL CHECK STANTON OFFICIALLY THROUGH THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE, AS A VISITOR ON VISA, THEN BRING HIM TO SMALLVILLE!
FINALLY...
WELL DONE, SUPERBOY! WAIT FOR MY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TOMORROW! AND IF YOU TRY TO FOLLOW ME OR UNMASK ME REMEMBER -- I'LL UNMASK YOU! UNDERSTAND?
Y-YES, SIR!
NEXT DAY, CLARK KENT SHARES THE BAFFLING MYSTERY WITH HIS PARENTS...
...AND SO, SOMEONE FOUND OUT THAT SUPERBOY LIVES HERE, AND IS FORCING ME TO AID HIM! DAD OR MOM, DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE... ER...
LET IT SLIP, SON? YOU KNOW WE'RE CAREFUL NEVER TO DROP THE SLIGHTEST HINT! TOO BAD IT CAME OUT ANYWAY, CLARK!
THAT NIGHT...
IF "THE MASK" TRIES TO SNEAK A NOTE INTO MY ROOM AGAIN, THROUGH ANY WINDOW, A PHOTOELECTRIC BEAM WILL TURN THE SEARCHLIGHT ON! EVEN IF HIS MASK IS ON, HE MAY YELL IN SURPRISE, GIVING HIS VOICE AWAY!
BUT THE NIGHT PASSES UNEVENTFULLY -- AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
TOO BAD, SON! NOBODY TRAPPED AND NO NOTE IN THE HOUSE, LEAVING IT A PUZZLE!
MAYBE HE WAS SCARED OFF BY SUSPECTING A TRAP! ANYWAY, THAT STOPPED HIM FROM GIVING ME MORE INSTRUCTIONS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, CLARK -- BUT THAT AFTERNOON, DURING LUNCH HOUR AT SCHOOL...
WHAT--? A NOTE IN MY LUNCHBOX THIS TIME! IS HE A. A MAGICIAN?

NEXT TASK, SUPERBOY CONSTRUCT THE FOLLOWING LETTERS, IN THE NUMBERS INDICATED, ONE FOOT HIGH AND OF A HARD, BRIGHT SUBSTANCE.
THE MASK
A...3 EACH
B...1
C...1
D...1
E...1
H...2 EACH
I...1
J...1
K...2 EACH
L...1
N...1
P...2 EACH
Q...1
R...2 EACH
T...2 EACH
Y...2 EACH
Z...1
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH ALL THOSE GIANT LETTERS? MAYBE TO SIGNAL AN ACCOMPLICE? HMM... PERHAPS BY FIGURING OUT WHAT MESSAGE HE'S TRYING TO SEND, I CAN LEARN WHAT HE'S UP TO!

AT SUPER-SPEED, CLARK TRIES OUT EVERY POSSIBLE WORD COMBINATION--BUT...
NO MATTER HOW MANY WORDS I COME UP WITH, EXTRA LETTERS ARE LEFT OVER! I CAN'T CRACK IT!
DAY... WATER... ZEBRA KITTY... BIRTH...
WHAT CRYPTIC MESSAGE DO THE LETTERS CONTAIN? CAN YOU GUESS?

AFTERWARD, AS SUPERBOY CARRIES OUT THE NEW COMMAND...
FIRST, SINCE I CAN PICK MY OWN MATERIALS, THIS ABANDONED PIT OF WET CLAY WILL DO NICELY! IT'LL DRY QUICKLY IN THOSE ALPHABET FORMS I CUT IN THAT CLIFF!

SOON...
I'LL GET PLENTY OF BRIGHT COLORS FROM THESE WILD FLOWERS I PICKED! BY BLOWING THE PETALS WITH MY SUPER-BREATH, I'LL EMBED THEM FIRMLY IN THE WET CLAY BEFORE IT DRIES!

FINALLY...
THIS LENS I FUSED OUT OF BROKEN GLASS, WITH SUPER-PRESSURE, WILL BAKE THE CLAY, UNDER CONCENTRATED SUNBEAMS, AND GLAZE THE SURFACE TO SHINY HARDNESS!

AWHILE LATER, BACK AT THE ORIGINAL MEETING PLACE...
SUPERBOY LEAVE THE LETTERS HERE!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS LEADING UP TO? SOME CONTEST OR GAME? AND WHERE WILL THE NEXT NOTE POP UP?

IN A STILL MORE UNEXPECTED PLACE, SUPERBOY! FOR UPON AWAKENING, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
HOLY SMOKE! IN MY OWN DRESSER DRAWER NOW! WITH DAD, MOM AND ME ALL KEEPING STRICT WATCH IN THE HOUSE, HOW CAN "THE MASK" SLIP IN UNSEEN? IS HE ABLE TO MAKE HIMSELF INVISIBLE TOO?
AND AS HE STARTS OUT ON HIS NEXT "MASK" MISSION...
THIS ONE I'M ALL IN FAVOR OF! THAT FREIGHTER IS STALLED AT SEA, AND THE NOTE ONLY MENTIONED THAT SOMEONE IN THE CREW MUST NOT BE DELAYED IN REACHING AMERICA!
SUPERBOY! WE LOST THE SCREW-PROPELLOR THAT DRIVES THIS SHIP! WE RADIOED FOR AID, BUT THE NEAREST VESSEL WILL TAKE HOURS TO REACH US!
RADIO THEM TO RESUME COURSE! I'LL MAKE YOU A NEW PROPELLOR MYSELF!
NEXT INSTANT, AT THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM...
NO MODERN STEAMSHIP IN SIGHT-- BUT THAT WRECK OF AN ANCIENT SPANISH GALLEON WILL DO!
THIS OLD ANCHOR AND CHAINS WILL FURNISH PLENTY OF SCRAP METAL TO MELT DOWN INTO A PROPELLOR, AT THE NEAREST ISLAND!
A VOLCANIC ISLAND SOON BECOMES SUPERBOY'S SUPER-FOUNDRY!
A BATH IN MOLTEN LAVA WILL HEAT THE IRON RED HOT, TURNING IT SOFT!

AND WITH THIS GRANITE "HAMMER" AND "ANVIL", I CAN POUND IT INTO A PROPELLOR SHAPE!
WHAM

MINUTES LATER...
I'LL HAVE THIS IN PLACE IN A JIFFY, CAPTAIN, AND YOU CAN STEAM AWAY!
AND SOMEONE AMONG THE CREW WILL REACH PORT ON SCHEDULE, AS "THE MASK" WISHED!

NEXT DAY, AFTER SCHOOL...
NO NOTE AT HOME OR ANYWHERE ELSE TODAY! WONDER WHERE IT'LL SHOW UP NEXT? WELL, RIGHT NOW DAD WANTS ME TO BRING MONEY TO THE BANK FOR HIM!
ENT'S GENERAL STORE

BUT WHEN CLARK OPENS THE STORE SAFE...
GULP! THE NEXT NOTE IS RIGHT HERE IN YOUR SAFE, DAD! B-BUT... HOW COULD "THE MASK" SLIP IT IN HERE? DID HE FIND OUT THE COMBINATION, OR HIRE AN EXPERT SAFECRACKER?
MY WORD! IT'S INCREDIBLE! BUT THERE'S NO MONEY MISSING, SO AT LEAST YOUR UNKNOWN "MASK" IS NOT A CRIMINAL!

A MOMENT LATER, AS THE BOY OF STEEL TAKES OFF...
GOSH, THIS ONE'S THE STRANGEST COMMAND OF ALL!
YOUR FINAL TASK SUPERBOY! GO TO CRYSTAL CAVE, OUTSIDE TOWN, WHERE YOU WILL FIND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WRITTEN ON THE WALL
the MASK

AND IN NEARBY CRYSTAL CAVE...
WHAT A SILLY JOB, COUNTING DRIPS! I FEEL LIKE A DRIP! THEN I'M TO RETURN HOME AS CLARK -- BUT WHY? THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME! CLARK WILL RUN ALL THE WAY HOME!
COUNT THE WATER DROPS FALLING HERE FOR ONE FULL HOUR, SUPERBOY! THEN RETURN HOME AS CLARK KENT! DO NOT FEAR, FOR YOUR SECRET IDENTITY IS SAFE IN MY HANDS! The MASK!
AN HOUR LATER, ROUNDING THE FINAL CORNER, WHAT IS IT THAT BRINGS AN INCREDULOUS GASP FROM CLARK?...
OH... NO! I WAS SO BUSY, I COMPLETELY FORGOT WHAT DAY THIS IS! SO THAT'S IT!
SUR-PRISE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLARK KENT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY! NOW I KNOW WHO "THE MASK" IS, TOO! IT WAS SO SIMPLE!
SIMPLE? THEN PERHAPS YOU, READER CAN FIGURE IT OUT, TOO!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON, FROM -- "THE MASK"!
DAD! IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB ALL THE TIME! WHO ELSE COULD KNOW MY DOUBLE IDENTITY, EXCEPT DAD AND MOM? YET IT WAS THE ONE OBVIOUS SOLUTION I DIDN'T THINK OF!
IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION, WE WANTED TO MAKE THIS A GRAND FAMILY REUNION FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, CLARK! MEET COUSIN ERIC STANTON FROM WALES -- AND COUSIN ALBERT CRANE, OF THE MERCHANT MARINE!
THE WELSH COAL MINER AND THE SEAMAN -- MY COUSINS!

LATER, WHEN FATHER AND SON ARE ALONE...
HOW CLEVER OF YOU, DAD, USING ME AS SUPERBOY TO GET THEM HERE! NEVER HAVING MET THEM BEFORE, I DIDN'T KNOW THEIR NAMES!
AND IT ADDED TO THE SEEMINGLY SECRET PLAN OF "THE MASK", KEEPING YOU TOO BUSY THINKING OF THAT TO REMEMBER YOUR BIRTHDAY COMING UP!
AND IT WAS SO EASY FOR YOU AND MOM TO SLIP ME THOSE NOTES ON MY PILLOW -- IN MY LUNCH BOX, DRESSER -- AND IN YOUR OWN SAFE, DAD! AS FOR THAT STRANGE "MESSAGE", I COULDN'T CRACK IT, OF COURSE, BECAUSE...
...YOU HAD ME MAKE THESE EXTRA ONES THAT DIDN'T FIT, SO I COULDN'T WORK OUT THE MESSAGE -- HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLARK KENT! THAT THREW ME OFF!
AHEM! SO I OUTWITTED EVEN SUPERBOY, EH?
YOU SEE, IT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO MAKE IT A REAL SURPRISE ON YOU, CLARK -- BY TRICKING SUPERBOY INTO BEING AWAY AT TIMES, FOR ALL OUR SECRET PREPARATIONS! FORGIVE US, SON?
FORGIVE YOU? WHY, TH-THIS IS THE HAPPIEST BIRTHDAY I EVER HAD! THANKS, DAD AND MOM... Y-YOU'RE SUPER PARENTS!
AND MY APPETITE'S BACK TOO! I KIND OF... ER... LOST IT BEFORE, WORRYING ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY BEING KNOWN! BUT IT SURE WAS WORTH IT, FOR THIS SUPER BIRTHDAY PARTY!
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CHOKE! I JUST REMEMBERED... THE FINAL COUNT WAS 5,632 DROPS OF WATER PER HOUR FALLING IN CRYSTAL CAVE! BUT THAT JOB WAS ONLY TO MAKE ME KILL TIME AS SUPERBOY, TILL THE PARTY WAS READY! I WOULD THINK OF THAT!
THE END.